

# PROTECTING CALIFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENT

A scenic landscape photograph of a river flowing through a forested valley. In the background, a large, sheer granite cliff face is illuminated by warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun. The river is filled with numerous large, dark rocks, and the water reflects the surrounding greenery and the golden light. The foreground shows more rocks and a few green leaves resting on them.

**OUR PROMISE TO FUTURE  
GENERATIONS**





Dear Californian:

Few places can rival the natural beauty of California. From the snow-capped Sierra Mountains to the pristine Pacific coast, from the majestic redwood forests to the painted landscapes of the Mojave Desert, our state is home to some of the most unique and diverse ecosystems in the world.

We have an obligation to preserve these rich natural resources for future generations. That's why I've made fighting for the environment a central part of my service in the United States Senate.

Working with my colleagues, we have enacted new policies for cleaner air and water. We created new national parks and monuments and expanded protections for California's existing public lands. And we passed the *California Desert Protection Act* and the *Lake Tahoe Restoration Act* to preserve two of California's most iconic places.

Unfortunately, California's environmental legacy is now in jeopardy. Our entire planet is warming as a result of manmade carbon emissions. The effects of climate change are now being felt in every corner of the state, threatening to erase much of our progress. We must act now before it's too late.

I believe the solution to this and many of the other challenges facing our environment will come out of California. Our state has repeatedly shown that smart stewardship of the environment is beneficial to both the public's health and the health of the economy. That's why we are investing in clean technology and renewable energy sources while working to protect our public lands and waters.

I encourage you to learn more about our efforts and look for ways you can help protect the environment. California is going green and my hope is that you will join us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" being more prominent than the last name "Feinstein".

Senator Dianne Feinstein









# PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S DESERT

Unlike most deserts, California's desert is full of life. The landscape is defined by stunning wildflower blooms and the iconic Joshua Trees. The desert's mountains and valleys are home to many unique species like the big-horn sheep or the desert tortoise. It's a truly special place that must be preserved.

## California Desert Protection Act

In 1994, Congress passed Senator Feinstein's bill to protect more than 7 million acres of pristine California desert—the largest such designation in the history of the continental United States—and established Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the East Mojave Natural Preserve.

## Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act

Senator Feinstein in 2000 authored legislation to designate 272,000 acres of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains as a national monument. Rising abruptly from the Coachella Valley, the monument reaches an elevation of almost 11,000 feet.

## Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments

President Obama, at the senator's request, used his authority under the *Antiquities Act* in 2016 to designate three new national monuments in the California desert: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains. The designations protect nearly 1.8 million acres of the California desert.

The three new national monuments were a major milestone in Senator Feinstein's decades-long effort to conserve desert land and balance its many uses. To build on the original California Desert Protection Act, Senator Feinstein has introduced updated legislation—with support from a wide range of California stakeholders—that would preserve additional desert land while expanding areas for recreational use and clean energy development.

Joshua Tree National Park



# SAVING THE DESERT TORTOISE

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The desert tortoise is one of the most elusive animals in the California desert. Living in a variety of habitats from sandy flats on the desert floor to rocky foothills 3,500 feet in elevation, the tortoise spends almost its entire life in burrows underground.

Despite its ability to adapt to most desert environments, habitat loss is now threatening the future of the desert tortoise. In parts of the California desert, desert tortoise populations have decreased by 90 percent due primarily to human activity. There are now estimated to be only 100,000 desert tortoises remaining in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts in the Southwestern United States.

Senator Feinstein has worked to save this threatened species. Her efforts to create new national parks, national monuments and nature preserves have helped protect nearly 9 million acres of the California desert, preserving much of the tortoises remaining natural habitat.





# ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

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## Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act

Senator Feinstein has long been a champion for policies to address climate change. As the top Democrat on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, one of her main priorities each year is to secure robust funding for research and development of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency improvements.

In 2007, she led a successful bipartisan effort to significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles, which account for 25 percent of total U.S. emissions.

Her legislation, the *Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act*, increased average fuel economy standards for America's fleet of vehicles by at least 10 miles per gallon over 10 years by 2020, the largest increase in fuel efficiency in more than two decades. Because of her bill, average fleet fuel economy will climb to over 50 miles per gallon by 2025, cutting greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks in half.

In addition to reducing emissions by 6 billion metric tons, these fuel standards will also save American families more than \$1.7 trillion dollars in fuel costs, resulting in an average fuel savings of more than \$8,000 per vehicle.

The legislation also required the establishment of the first-ever fuel economy standards for buses, delivery trucks and long-haul 18 wheelers, reducing greenhouse gas pollution from those vehicles by more than 1 billion metric tons.





# CALIFORNIA'S FORESTS AND WILDERNESS

## Headwaters Forest Agreement

In 1999, Senator Feinstein helped secure \$250 million in federal funds in 1999 to purchase the 7,500-acre Headwaters Forest to protect the world's last unprotected, intact, old-growth redwood forest ecosystem. The agreement also helped preserve 12 additional groves of ancient redwood trees. Some of its trees are more than 320 feet tall — higher than the Statue of Liberty — and were growing during the Roman Empire.

Several threatened species live in the Headwaters Forest, including coho salmon, the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. The old-growth forest is the beginnings of headwaters of the South Fork Elk River and Salmon Creek.

## Otay Mountain Wilderness Act

In 1999, Senator Feinstein preserved 18,500 acres of the Otay Mountain region, one of the last pristine sections of wilderness in western San Diego County. Located near the U.S.-Mexico border, the rugged Otay Mountain area rises quickly from the ocean and reaches a peak of 3,500 feet above sea level.

The area is part of the San Ysidro Mountains. It's home to 20 sensitive plant and animal species, including the endangered quino checkerspot butterfly, the only known stand of Tecate cypress, as well as the only known population of the Mexican flannel bush.

## Redwood National Park

In 2005, Senator Feinstein passed legislation that added 25,500 acres of land known as the Mill Creek property to Redwood National Park in Del Norte County. In addition to the Mill Creek property, this bill brought another 900 acres of land within the park's boundary.

## Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act

In 2006, Senator Feinstein passed legislation that permanently protected almost 300,000 acres of wilderness Northern California, including the King Range, Yolla-Bolly Middle Eel and Trinity Alps wilderness areas, and preserved over 21 miles of the Black Butte River in Mendocino County.

The King Range Wilderness features the longest stretch of undeveloped beach and coastal bluffs in the United States outside of Alaska. The Yolla-Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness surrounds the Middle Fork Eel River, which hosts between 30 and 50 percent of the state's summer-run steelhead trout population. And the Trinity Alps Wilderness shelters the third-largest swath of unprotected old-growth in northern California.



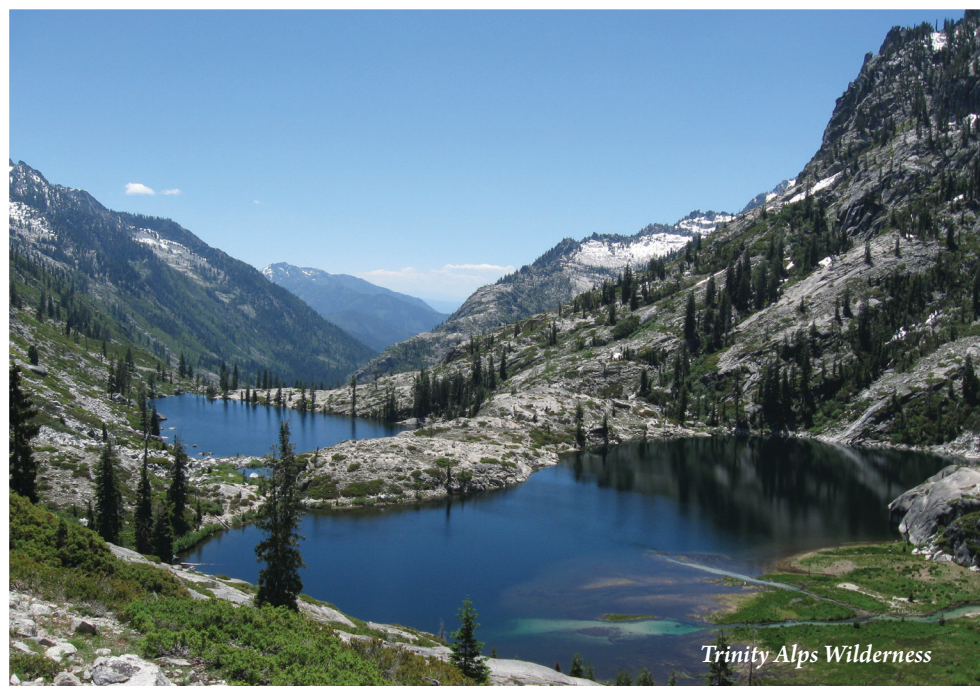




*Headwaters Forest Reserve*



*Otay Mountain Wilderness*



*Trinity Alps Wilderness*



# LAKE TAHOE RESTORATION ACT

## Saving the Jewell of the Sierras

A commitment to save Lake Tahoe was forged after President Clinton held an environmental summit in 1997 to focus national attention on the lake's declining health. In response, Congress passed the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Senator Feinstein's bill that helped launch a \$1.9 billion public-private partnership to restore the lake.

The bill authorized \$300 million in federal funds over 10 years to match investments by California and Nevada and local authorities to reverse the environmental emergency threatening Lake Tahoe.

Senator Feinstein helped lead the successful effort to reauthorize the bill in 2016. Building on the progress of the last two decades, the new bill added an additional \$415 million in federal funds to improve Lake Tahoe's water clarity, reduce risks from catastrophic wildfires, combat invasive species, and restore and protect the Lake Tahoe basin.

Senator Feinstein hosted the 20th Anniversary Lake Tahoe Summit in 2017. Attended by all four California and Nevada senators for the first time since 1997, the annual summit highlighted the progress made protecting Lake Tahoe. Since the first summit, more than 600 completed or ongoing conservation projects have:

- Improved more than 17,000 acres of wildlife habitat.
- Restored more than 1,700 acres of Stream Environment Zones.
- Improved 762 miles of roadways to contain pollution and sedimentation.
- Constructed more than 150 miles of new hiking trails.
- Reduced wildfire fuel on almost 70,000 acres of forest land.
- Upgraded 39 transit facilities to increase public transportation options.
- Added more than 3,200 linear feet of shoreline for public access.





## Rescuing Lake Tahoe

President Clinton signed a law this week to help finance a 10-year project aimed at cleaning up Lake Tahoe and restoring its famous clarity, which has dimmed in recent years.

This is good news and comes in the nick of time, according to scientists who say the lake's lucidity diminishes by a foot a year because of air pollution, runoff and algae. The law will provide \$300 million in federal funds as part of a \$900 million cleanup and restoration of the spectacular, 22-mile-long lake in the Sierra.

Water clarity is measured by the visibility of a white disc about the size of a dinner plate. In the 1960s, the disc could be seen at 105 feet deep. Today, it is visible at only 66 feet. Scientists fear if the clarity diminishes much more, it could be irreversible.

The federal money will be supplemented by \$350 million from California and Nevada. Local governments and businesses will provide the rest during the next decade.

Money will be spent on a variety of restoration projects around the lake, such as buying environmentally sensitive land, developing mass transit and erosion control projects.

A commitment to save Lake Tahoe was forged at a 1997 environmental summit there, which focused national attention on the lake's rare beauty and fragile ecology.





*Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge*



*Don Edwards Sa*







San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge



Golden Gate National Recreation Area

# RESTORING THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

## Golden Gate National Recreation Area

In 2000, Senator Feinstein added nearly 1,300 acres of undeveloped land in Pacifica, Marin County and San Francisco to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. In 2005, she added an additional 4,500 acres in San Mateo County to the park, including a 4,076-acre parcel known as the Rancho Corral de Tierra.

## San Francisco Bay Salt Ponds Restoration

San Francisco Bay has lost an estimated 85 percent of its historic wetlands to fill or alteration. This dramatic decline in tidal marsh habitats has caused populations of marsh-dependent fish and wildlife to dwindle. It has also decreased water quality and increased local flood risks. Restoration of the bay's salt ponds provides an opportunity to begin to reverse these trends, by improving the health of San Francisco Bay for years to come.

Senator Feinstein helped negotiate in 2003 the purchase of 16,500 acres of salt ponds from Cargill along the San Francisco Bay and Napa River—the largest such wetlands restoration project in California history—through an unprecedented public-private partnership.

## San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund

Senator Feinstein created the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund in 2009 to restore and protect the San Francisco Bay-Delta system, which provides drinking water for 25 million people and supports a \$37.5 billion agricultural sector. This fund has helped improve degraded water quality, reduce pollution and restore wetlands in the bay's watershed.

Thanks to this successful program and the restoration of the bay's salt ponds, a 2015 study showed a dramatic increase in the number of shorebirds in the estuary, doubling their population to more than 200,000 birds.



## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you are interested in receiving further information about these important issues, please visit Senator Feinstein's website ([www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)) and register to receive e-mail updates. Many of the statistics in this booklet came from the following sources:

### **U.S. Department of the Interior**

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[www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)

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### **California Department of Parks and Recreation**

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### **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

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